

INTRODUCTION

The Office of Plant Industry Services in the Division of Consumer Protection has the responsibility of ensuring that fertilizer and agricultural liming materials distributed in Virginia are properly labeled, registered and meet the labelers guarantee. The Fertilizer and Agricultural Liming Materials Laws provide for the collection and testing of samples of regulated materials and for assessments for variance from guarantee on deficient lots. When it is possible to identify the purchaser of the deficient material, the assessment is paid to that purchaser. These laws protect the consumer and enhance fair competition between manufacturers in the marketplace, as well as provide the basis for service to other State agencies.

During the 2020-21 fiscal year (FY = July 1 thru June 30), a total of 878,653 tons of fertilizer products were reported sold. This is a decrease of 72,751 tons or 7% below the 2019-2020 reported tonnage of 951,404 tons. This number excludes lime; but includes gypsum, soil amendments and horticultural growing media. Farm use tonnage for 2020-2021 was 592,253 tons which is a decrease of 46,983 tons or 7% below the farm use tonnage for 2019-2020 of 639,236. Non-farm use tonnage for 2020-2021 was 286,399 tons which is a decrease of 25,768 tons or 8% below the 2019-2020 reported tonnage of 312,167.

The suppliers of agricultural liming material reported 415,599 tons sold during the 2020-2021 fiscal year. This is a decrease of 87,773 tons or 17% below fiscal year 2019-2020 reported tonnage of 503,372.